

Request for Reconsideration:

Claims 6 and 12 currently are pending in the present application. Applicants are canceling claims 1-5, 7-11, and 13, without prejudice. No new matter is added by the foregoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter these amendments and reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Remarks:

1. Rejections.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Examiner indicates that claims 6 and 12 are allowed. Nevertheless, claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Patent No. US 5,667,050 A to Hasegawa ("Hasegawa"). Further, claims 4-5, 7-11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly rendered obvious by Hasegawa, as applied to claims 1-3, in view of Patent No. US 6,578,687 B2 to Dau et al. ("Dau"). Applicants have canceled claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13, without prejudice to the subject matter claimed thereby. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 1-5, 7-11 and 13 are rendered moot, and that the above-captioned patent application now is condition for allowance.

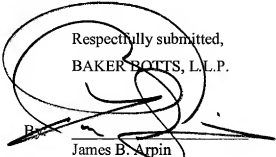
Conclusion:

Applicants maintain that the above-captioned patent application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that the prosecution of this application may be furthered by discussing the application, in person or by telephone, with Applicants' representative, Applicants would welcome the opportunity to do so.

Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this responsive amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and the fees determined by the PTO, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 02-0375.

Respectfully submitted,
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